

U.S. Serial No. 09/987,816

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REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending. Claim 2 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 5-11 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 12-18 of co-pending Application No. 10/001,981. The Examiner states that the conflicting claims are identical, and are not, therefore, distinct from each other. In reply, without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, the Applicants have amended the claims of both applications such that the claims can no longer be said to be identical. Thus, the provisional rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishino, 6,233,452 (Nishino). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Christie et al., U.S. 6,535,483 (Christie). Applicants traverse as follows.

In the communication system and method of the present invention, connection information such as the access point AP of a provider, service information, etc. between the carriers

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and the respective providers, is stored in advance in a database of the respective carriers. Then, when a computer or other mobile apparatus seeks connection to the internet, the connection information stored in the database can be obtained from the carrier, the best-suited carrier lines and providers can be determined on the basis of the obtained connection information, and the computer or other mobile apparatus can be connected by internet.

According to the primary reference to Nishino, AP information of the provider as to the respective base stations is stored in the terminal apparatus seeking connection. Then, when the connection with a wireless base station is implemented, the identifier CS-ID of the base station is acquired to obtain local AP information, and in turn the telephone number of the nearest AP.

Nishino thus discloses the connection from the fixed carrier to the specified provider. However, Nishino does not disclose the technique of the present invention for connecting from the computer or other mobile apparatus to the plurality of carriers or the plurality of providers by selection. More particularly, Nishino does not disclose a database provided in each carrier of a public phone and storing connection information from the public phone to a plurality of internet

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providers, wherein when the computer is connected to the public phone, the computer obtains connection information on the database as to connected public phones to obtain best-suited carrier lines and providers, and to determine a public phone and a service provider to be connected, for connecting the computer with the internet. Further, Nishino does not disclose a method of connecting with an access point of an internet provider through a public line connecting device, including a step of obtaining the connection information and line information of the internet provider from the public line connecting device.

Christie, which discloses an unrelated system and method for providing enhanced services for a telecommunication call, cannot be combined with Nishino to render the claimed invention unpatentable because Christie provides no teaching that one of ordinary skill would be motivated to combine with the wireless internet access scheme of Nishino.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 21, 2005